

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
July 8, 2021

Present:

Clyde Watkins
Brent "Ole" Olsen
Glen Jessen
Sommer Arnold
Melba Markham, Town Clerk
Craig Kettle, Town Employee
Josh Phillips, Altamont Fire Chief

Also Present:

Shilo Monney

Also present was Kimberly Layton, taking minutes.

Clyde Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes Approved (7:01 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to approve the minutes of June 10, 2021 as written. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department (7:03 p.m.)

The council agreed to move this item to the end of the agenda.

Park (7:04 p.m.)

Sommer stated that Serena and Craig had met and discussed sand for the volleyball court, playground, etc. There was a pile of sand already at the park, so Craig has added sand where needed. Melba asked Sommer to find out where Serena would like the sanitation stations placed for Longhorn Days. Melba has ordered four stations. Glen stated that as far as he knows, the recreation district is waiting until they get their first funding prior to taking over the park. The recreation district will have to get the park surveyed so that we can prepare a deed to turn over the portion of the park that the Recreation District will be taking over. The Town will keep an easement for access to the property for construction purposes.

Glen asked if anyone had heard anything about fireworks. He stated that the state of Utah has a ban – how does that affect the Town? If the Longhorn Days committee sets off the fireworks, who is liable if it starts a fire? Mayor Watkins stated that the Town would be somewhat liable because we gave permission. The council agreed to wait and talk to Chief Phillips prior to making a decision.

Mayor Watkins contacted Chief Phillips by phone for this portion of the meeting.

Chief Phillips asked what the council was thinking with regards to fireworks. Glen stated that he thinks we should ban them. Glen stated that the park borders tribal land, and the tribe has banned fireworks. That is one concern of his. Chief Phillips stated that he feels confident that the Town could do the fireworks as long as the park stays wet and if we keep getting some rain prior to the celebration. Chief Phillips suggested using the school parking lot or the baseball field. Ole stated that they found scorch marks on the top of the high school the year they did the fireworks in the parking lot.

Sommer suggested we wait and see how the weather is. Glen agreed that it might be okay to wait until closer to the celebration before making a final decision.

Chief Phillips suggested asking the school district if we could use the southeast corner of the parking lot.

Mayor Watkins stated that the BIA took a cut today so there may not be enough to over-water at the park. Craig stated that he is already down to watering two days a week at the park. If the BIA took a cut, he may be down to watering one day a week.

Chief Phillips will be in town for the celebration so he can keep an eye on the conditions of the grass and surrounding areas. He would recommend getting the fireworks set off as far north as possible to keep them away from the tribal ground. The lot behind the church is really dry. Josh stated that there may be a chance to get a mower over there and get that cleared before the celebration.

Chief Phillips and Mayor Watkins will keep in touch to discuss this issue.

With regards to the fire department, Chief Phillips stated that they did get some equipment in. They are still missing a couple of hoses.

Josh Phillips left the meeting.

Equipment (7:28 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that the Town purchased a backhoe. He asked if any other equipment was needed. Craig stated that he is not in need of any other equipment right now. He would be interested in upgrading to a two-foot bucket for the backhoe. He will obtain some estimates. Mayor Watkins stated that Craig should check the right of way coming from Dastrup's pond on the Leis property. Craig stated he walked the right of way when the water first got put in. Mayor Watkins suggested walking it again to see if any weeds need to be sprayed. Craig will check into that.

Glen stated that he feels a good used side-by-side would be very helpful for spraying weeds and other Town jobs. There are a few rights of way where it is difficult to get a truck through and a side-by-side would be useful in those areas.

Mayor Watkins stated that the Town will probably get more Covid funding. Melba stated that they estimated the Town would receive \$33,000 but it must be matched with Town funds. She further stated that the government would control what the funding could be spent on.

Mayor Watkins asked if the culvert between Glen's home and the store was falling in. Craig stated that he would look into it to see if some repairs are necessary there.

Secondary Water (7:36 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that there has been a water cut and we may not be able to fulfill everybody's needs. Craig stated that the agriculture users have been pretty good when he tells them there have been water cuts. We need to keep everybody equal. Craig stated that a lot of the agriculture users may not even use it now because when it is cut to 1.5 feet, there's not really enough in the ditch to run their lines. He has already had them cut to shorter days. Craig will take water on Saturday and then some decisions could be made. He has been buying killzall to spray weeds. He has sprayed at the Altonah cemetery. Craig further mentioned that the french drain at the pond was running a little bit of water a week ago, but not much.

Insurance Liability (7:42 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins reminded the council to be mindful of things that the Town could get sued over. Turning the park over will take some liability off of the Town. Mayor Watkins stated that it would be good to do some training as a council. Council members should be getting e-mails with a link to watch the training videos. One example given was to make sure that residents are informed if jetters are to be used on the sewer system.

Miscellaneous (7:46 p.m.)

Shilo Monney showed some interest in serving on the council. He has lived in Altamont for two years now. Mayor Watkins explained that the council meets once each month and may add additional meetings if necessary. Each council member has a specific responsibility. Sommer's responsibility may transfer to the cemeteries when the park is removed. The open position would be for planning and zoning. Mr. Monney provided the council with a letter of interest. This item will be discussed at next month's council meeting.

Melba plans to retire, and her position will be advertised so that interviews could be held in September. Melba will write a job description. Mayor Watkins will contact legal counsel to make sure that the Town follows proper protocol.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on August 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by Ole Olsen to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Motion seconded by Glen Jessen. Motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved this 12th day of Aug., 2021.

e-mailed to

altamonttown@gmail.com

July 23, 2021